



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Chief Executive Officer

May 23, 2016

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To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
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From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

**MOTION TO DIRECT THE SACRAMENTO ADVOCATES TO SUPPORT SB 916 (ALLEN)
WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING TO
ISSUE SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIALS FOR DANCE AND THEATER
(ITEM NO. 27-D, SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA OF MAY 24, 2016)**

Item No. 27-D on the May 24, 2016 Supplemental Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe to direct the Sacramento advocates to support SB 916 (Allen), which would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue single subject teaching credentials for dance and theater, respectively, and to advocate for its approval by the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 27, 2016.

Background

SB 916 (Allen), which as amended on April 27, 2016, would require the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue single subject teaching credentials in dance and theater.

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) primarily serves as a State standards board for educator preparation for the public schools, which includes the issuance of licensing and credentialing of professional educators in the State and the enforcement of professional practices by educators. Existing law authorizes the CTC to issue a single subject teaching credential in a specified subject based upon the depth of an applicant's preparation in an important subject of the school curriculum. The CTC may issue single subject teaching credentials in 13 subjects: agriculture, art, business, English, foreign language, health science, home economics, industrial and technology education, mathematics, music, physical education, science, and social science. Currently, credentials for dance and theatre are subsumed within the physical education and English credentials.

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SB 916 would authorize the CTC to issue separate dance and theatre single-subject credentials.

According to the author's office, dance and theatre undergraduate majors are prevalent in California, with 73 public and private colleges and universities offering dance majors and 131 colleges offering theatre majors. These students earning degrees in dance or theatre are unable to teach in their respective fields unless they get a credential in physical education or English.

SB 916 is supported by: California Alliance for Arts Education; California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; California Educational Theatre Association; California Federation of Teachers; California Music Educators Association; California State PTA; California Teachers Association; Common Sense Kids Action; Los Angeles Unified School District; National Art Education Association; National Association for Music Education; National Dance Education Organization; National Educational Theatre Association; Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists; Teaching Artists Guild; and United Teachers Los Angeles. There is currently no registered opposition on file.

SB 916 is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 27, 2016.

Conclusion

Support for SB 916 is consistent with existing Board policy to support proposals which would expand the role of arts education in public schools through the inclusion of arts as a core subject, the development of arts textbooks, and an increase in arts educators.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
VE:PC:lm

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel